

May 7, 2003 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

Members In attendance: Al Hunter, Sonny Cyrtyebaum, Jack Doppelt, Alice Eagly, Al Farbman, Dan Garrison, Hamlin Jennings, James Lindgren, Deborah Lucas, Eva Redei, Mario Ruggero, Bruce Wessels, Judith Willoughby

Members not present: Bill Gradishar, Bill Halperin, Clayton Peimer, Robert Ten Eick, Sigmund Weitzman, Ilya Kutik

1. Minutes

Minutes are approved provisionally, pending GFC member feedback.

2. Report on Meeting with Central Administration

#2 on Exec Agenda: Animal research

Animal research and testing is currently in jeopardy of being discontinued at NU due to non-compliance. Concern was expressed by GFC members regarding level of animal testing non-compliance. A suggestion was made for a letter to be written to Vice President Brad Moore requesting information regarding specific structural problems that have contributed to these problems. The University has grown without sufficient support of infrastructure for research. GFC wants to promote the building an adequate infrastructure consistent with a major research university.

The GFC sub-committee on research will address these issues as soon as practical. The main focus will be in the funding of the infrastructure of research. Eva Redei will take the lead as chair of the Research sub-committee.

#3 on Exec Agenda: Contraceptives

The legal staff is looking into the contraceptive issue currently. If NU is found to not be in compliance then the Administration will pursue this issue and make policy changes.

#5 on Exec Agenda: Faculty Club

The establishment of a Faculty Club may be possible provided a suitable donor can be identified. The purpose of having this club is not necessarily to have a place to eat but rather to have a place where faculty can be encouraged to congregate. Al Hunter proposed a sub-committee be formed which would meet with Vice President Eugene Sunshine to pursue establishing a faculty club.

#6 on Exec Agenda: Development of better coordination between GFC sub-committees and University committees

There was a discussion of the make up of University committees. Bruce Wessels is looking into this matter and has had discussions with Associate Provost Fisher. There was definite openness to GFC making recommendations of names to standing University committees.

#7 on Exec Agenda: Budgetary meetings

There have been discussions with the administration for GFC participation in the university budgeting process. Several possible scenarios were presented by the administration. President Bienen was open to allowing participation experimentally for next year. GFC as a whole can potentially bring budgetary issues to the table and act as advocates. Deborah Lucas will take the lead on this as chair of the Budget and Policy sub-committee.

#8 on Exec Agenda: Mortgage

The concept of NU participating in a mortgage support benefit program was discussed. Currently, NU is not actually helping with the mortgage; it is helping with the down payment on a case by case basis. This is very beneficial for Junior Faculty but may not be of real benefit to other faculty.

A major problem of the mortgage benefit program is with the way it is currently advertised. Communicating this benefit is a problem due in part to the lack of available information.

3. Committee Reports

Bruce Wessels would like GFC members to send more names of nominees for the Committee on Committees. This should be made a priority since sub-committees will be chosen from this pool of names.

a. Approval of 2003-2004 sub-committee Chairs

Committee on Committees members, Al Hunter, Bruce Wessels and Al Farbman, have met and voted on Committee chairs.

Here are the FY2004 appointments:

Research: Eva Redei

Budget: Deborah Lucas

Faculty Development: Hamlin Jennings

Communications: Jack Doppelt

Benefits: Not yet chosen

Committee on Cause: James Lindgren

4. Report on Faculty Survey

GFC members were asked to look over the GFC faculty survey, paying close attention to the comments made by faculty. The issue of keeping the survey participants' comments and opinions confidential was raised. Many GFC members agreed that the names of faculty should not be publicized nor directly linked to the comments made. Surveys should be treated as confidential. School and rank information should be left but names should be taken out and linked only by report affiliation.

5. Planning for Final Meeting

GFC members were asked to give suggestions for restaurants where the final GFC meeting can be held. Members were reminded of the \$50 per person restriction. Some suggestions included

Jacky's Bistro, Petites and Va Pensiera. Debbie Brauer will be the contact person for putting together this end of year event.

6. Final Comments of Chair and Summer Transition

The main goal of the GFC for the next three months is to remain proactive with Central Administration over the summer.

Conclusion of meeting:

The next GFC meeting will be held on June 4, 2003 at 7:00pm. Location information will be sent soon.

GFC members were asked to read over the faculty survey comments and devise an agenda for the fall.

Minutes Submitted By:

Diana Snyder

Reviewed By:

Bruce Wessels